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3B breakwater and beach road, it is easy to see that many will be disappointed; going by the 87 per cent overall of submissions to the EES Inquiry that opposed the development, and the 81 per cent opposition rate in submissions from Mallacoota residents.

However, if the Save Bastion Point campaign alternative goes ahead, why wouldn't people who want upgraded boat launching be happy – it achieves a safer, upgraded ramp, at lower capital cost and lower ongoing costs via rates.

It preserves surfing, and leaves the beach without a road along it.

It provides the same amount of parking, closer to the boat ramp, but with less loss of vegetation on the headland.

It preserves Aboriginal cultural heritage as it doesn't make the middens into roadside verges. It is tourism positive, not to the net detriment of tourism as the inquiry panel found for Option 3B.

In the words of the inquiry panel, "The measures taken by East Gippsland Shire Council overall to engage the community were largely counter productive, and caused further divisions rather than finding some form of consensus. It is likely that the engagement of a neutral consultant to run the community engagement program from the start would have led to very different results."

It's not too late Mr Bull to accept that there is a middle ground, and achieve a win-win for the community, not a win-loss!

Yours etc.,
James Thyer,
Northcote.

Middle ground

Sir,- Tim Bull's media comments that there is no middle ground in the debate on Bastion Point implies that there will be one side that wins, and one side that loses when the outcome of the current government process is known.

On one hand, if the decision is to build the Option